

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the pending claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a peripheral device on a network, comprising:

 | sending, without user intervention, a request from a host to the peripheral device across the network;

 | receiving, without user intervention, a response from the peripheral device, the response including a current configuration setting of the peripheral device;

 | determining whether to configure the peripheral device, without user intervention; and

 | sending a configuration message to the peripheral device, the configuration message including an updated configuration setting for the peripheral device, the configuration message including both a network parameter associated with a network connection of the peripheral device and a functional parameter associated with a device-specific operation of the peripheral device, the updated configuration setting generated and sent by the host without user intervention.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 1 and wherein the configuration message includes a data payload.

4. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1 and wherein the act of sending a request from a host across the network includes the act of sending a request via a broadcast from a host device across the network.

5. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1 and wherein the act of sending a request

from a host across the network includes the act of sending a request via a multicast from a host device across the network.

6. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1 and wherein the act of sending a request from a host across the network includes the act of sending a request via a unicast from a host device across the network.

7. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1 and wherein the peripheral device is a printer.

8. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1 and wherein the peripheral device is a print server.

9. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1 and wherein the peripheral device is an adapter.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 1 and wherein the host is a configuration utility software installed on a device.

11. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 1 and wherein the configuration setting includes one of:

 a network setting and a device-specific setting.

Claims 12-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the request is a query packet and the host includes a configuration utility, and further comprising the acts of:

 receiving the query packet by the peripheral device over the network from the configuration utility;

sending the response packet to the configuration utility in response to the query packet, the response including the current configuration setting of the peripheral device and indicating that the peripheral device recognizes the query packet;

receiving a configuration packet by the peripheral device over the network from the configuration utility;

parsing the configuration packet for an updated configuration setting; and

changing the current configuration setting of the peripheral device to match the updated configuration setting included in the configuration packet.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the configuration settings are communicated by binary data.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the binary data is a series of delimited text strings.

35. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the binary data is encrypted data.

36. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein an acknowledgment packet is sent to the configuring utility after the new configuration has been accepted.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the peripheral device is selected from the group consisting of: a print server, a network adapter,

Claims 38-42. (Canceled)